



Pond Spring Cleanout Guide

by the Fish Guys

Phone: 401.732.9970
Toll Free 877.FISH.TALK
www.SomethingFishyInc.com

Follow Us on the Web:
www.twitter.com/thePondGuys

Warwick Retail Showroom
1185 Jefferson Blvd
Warwick, RI 02886

East Providence Retail Showroom
865 Warren Ave
East Providence, RI 02914

Clean It Yourself or Hire a Professional?

Before you jump into the process of cleaning your pond, consider the possibility of hiring a professional. As a Certified Aquascape Contractor, Something Fishy offers pond maintenance and cleaning services. Whether you clean your pond or hire a professional is really a matter of personal preference.



If you do it yourself, you can mark it down for your daily exercise, you can be proud of what you've done, and you can learn a little more about what's lurking beneath the water. Sometimes it isn't pretty, but isn't that the beauty of pond ecology?

Now if you decide to have it done by a professional that you know and trust, you have the confidence to know it's going to be done right, taking little or no time away from your day. Plus, if a professional happens to be washing out the filter media and finds a problem, they can address it right there. The trained eye of the Fish Guys could even prevent a problem before it occurs.



So will you go for the personal satisfaction of cleaning out your pond, or will you trade your hip boots in for the TV remote and let the Fish Guys do it? The choice is yours.

Checklist of Materials for Your Pond Clean-Out

If you're planning to get your hands dirty with a spring clean-out, here is a list of materials that may be helpful when you're in the trenches. Being prepared ahead of time will prevent the need to run to the store in the middle of your clean-out project. Here's a handy list of things you may need before strapping on your hip boots and wading in:

- Kiddie pool (or similar large container to hold fish and frogs)
- Net to cover fish container to prevent them from jumping out
- Fish net to catch the fish before the clean-out
- Air pump and stone to oxygenate water in fish container
- Two-five gallon buckets for collecting leaves and debris
- Wading boots or old clothes you don't mind getting dirty
- Rubber gloves
- 25 feet of 1.5 to 2-inch discharge piping
- A high-pressure nozzle for your garden hose or a power washer
- Garden shears for trimming plants



- **Pond Detoxifier** to de-chlorinate the water, repair fish slime coat, neutralize ammonia, sedate fish & detoxify heavy metals
- **Beneficial Bacteria** - Adds necessary bacteria to begin biological filtration
- **Pond Salt** - Reduces disease and maintains the electrolyte levels in your fish
- **Plant Fertilizer** – Might as well fertilize those lilies while you're in there!
- Extra rocks/pebbles to cover exposed liner
- **Expanding Foam** - Fill in any necessarily spots where water may leak / divert to
- New filter mats, if needed
- **AlgaeFix** to maintain that crystal clear water everyone wants
- **Light Bulbs** to replace any underwater light bulbs
- **Pump** to drain pond (you may be able to use the one you have now)

Something Fishy's Recommended Products

Pond Detoxifier



Beneficial Bacteria



Pond Salt



Plant Fertilizer



Now that you know what you need to do a clean-out, your next step is to learn how to do a clean-out. Now don't worry, it's really not too complicated – just a little dirty. If you follow a few easy steps, your clean-out can be done quickly and easily. Check out these easy-to-follow steps below.

10 Steps to a Successful Spring Clean-out

1. Start Draining the Pond – An inexpensive pump or a solids pump is sufficient. Be sure you use some of the pond water to fill a container with pond water for the fish. Add air stone and pump.
2. Disconnect the Circulation System – This will allow the water in the plumbing to drain out.
3. Catch the Fish – Drain the pond down to 6"-12" in order to catch fish easily and safely. Finish draining pond.
4. Remove Debris – Once the pond is drained, remove any large debris like leaves and twigs.
5. Wash the Pond – A 1,500 psi pressure washer or a high-pressure nozzle on a garden hose is recommended for pond cleaning.
6. Rinse the Pond – Rinse the pond from top to bottom with a garden hose without the high-pressure nozzle. This will help wash any remaining pond debris from under the rocks. As the dirty water accumulates on the bottom, continue to pump it out.
7. Clean the Filters – Spray the filtration media until relatively clean and rinse down the inside of the filter units. Remove any debris using a net or shop vacuum.
8. Refill the Pond – Remove the clean-out pump out and begin refilling the pond. Add **Pond Salt**.
9. De-chlorinate the water with **Pond Detoxifier** – Most city water contains chlorine and chloramines and should be treated with a de-chlorinator before fish are introduced.
10. Once the pump is running, you should begin adding your **Beneficial Bacteria**.

You will then want to acclimate the fish. A spring clean-out can be stressful to fish, so proper acclimation is suggested to decrease stress and avoid future health problems. In order to properly acclimate your fish, you'll want to slowly introduce them to the new pond water by taking the hose and putting into the container that is holding your fish. Over the course of 15 minutes, add an equal volume of new water to what the fish are being held in.